

13 February 1991

JUDGE:

During my 11 February visit, NEW YORK TIMES Bureau Chief Howell Raines expressed some concern about not having more contact with senior Agency officials. His concern has some merit. Accordingly, I ask that you consider hosting a breakfast or lunch once a month for the bureau chief and three or four national security reporters of each of the major media organizations important to CIA. The session would be hosted by you or the DDCI with the DDI or C/NIC present. It will be on background/off-the-record.

Carping by some Agency critics and now calls by intelligence oversight committees for a review of the intelligence community suggest that intelligence as an issue is going to be with us for some time, certainly beyond the end of the Gulf crisis. Moreover, the debate could be more public than ever before.

Meeting regularly with key players from major media organizations would give you a voice in any upcoming discussions of the intelligence community. It would give the media a chance to raise issues they consider important and you a chance to respond to their concerns. The sessions would also help to foster closer working relationships with media people with whom we routinely have contact.

In considering which media representatives to invite on a regular basis, I was thinking of the following: THE NEW YORK TIMES, THE LOS ANGELES TIMES, THE WASHINGTON POST, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, and THE WASHINGTON TIMES from the press; TIME, NEWSWEEK, and U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT from the weeklies; and ABC, NBC, CBS, and CNN from television. That's twelve media outlets. Averaging one session per month would ensure that you and the DDCI see the key players from each media outlet at least once a year for substantive discussions.

If you agree with this proposal, I suggest we begin with THE NEW YORK TIMES in March. The guest list could include: Howell Raines, Managing Editor Philip Taubman, national security reporter Michael Gordon, diplomatic correspondent Tom Friedman, and investigative reporter Michael Wines.


STAT


Joe Detran/s/ WHW

Agree with the program. Let's go ahead with THE TIMES in March.

____ Would like to discuss your idea further before starting.

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